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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-21 have been rejected. Claim 22-24 have been added as new claims in this amendment to further define what the Applicant considers to be the invention. Applicant respectfully asserts that no new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the amendments to the claims and the new claims add no new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over US Pat. No. 5,727,161 to Purcell ("Purcell") in further view of US Pat. No. 6,157,934 to Kahn et al. (Kahn").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 8 and 15 under Purcell in further view of Kahn.

Applicant asserts that neither Purcell nor Kahn, alone or in combination, teach or suggest, "a builder to generate a unified spreadsheet from at least two spreadsheet blocks", as is an element under Applicant's independent claims 1, 8 and 15. Kahn teaches spreadsheet blocks that are linked to a unified spreadsheet, but such unified spreadsheet is already provided to the invention in Kahn, and is not generated from the spreadsheet blocks. Similarly, Kahn does not describe linking the blocks as part of the process of generating a

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unified spreadsheet – in fact Kahn does not generate a unified spreadsheet at all. The invention in Kahn starts with a unified spreadsheet and links the spreadsheet blocks to and from the spreadsheet blocks. Similarly, Purcell does not describe generating a unified spreadsheet from spreadsheet. In Section 6 9(iii)(b) of the office action, the Examiner cites col. 11, lines 33-55 from Purcell as describing an implementation of a spreadsheet modeling system which includes the use of spreadsheet software that links spreadsheet blocks. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this reading. The cited text in Purcell addresses cells whose values are linked to other cells in other spreadsheet. Linking cell values is a simple matter of inputting a number into two places, such two places being in two spread sheets or two spread sheet blocks. Such linking of values from and between spreadsheets or spreadsheet blocks is not the same as automatically generating a unified spreadsheet from blocks where the relations among the blocks as is used in such generation is defined in a graph. In short, Kahn and Purcell each start with a unified spreadsheet, and fill in cells or blocks in accordance with defined relationships among them. Applicant's claims 1, 8 and 15 claim generating a unified spreadsheet from the blocks, where the relationship among the blocks is as described in the graph.

It would not be obvious to include in Kahn in further view of Purcell "generating a unified spreadsheet from spreadsheet blocks whose relations are defined in a graph". Thus, neither Kahn nor Purcell, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the invention of claims independent claims 1, 8 and 15.

In the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 2-5, 9-12 and 16-19 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Purcell and Kahn in further view of US Patent No. 5,513,356 to Takahashi et al ("Takahashi"). Claims 2-5, 9-12 and 16-19 depend directly or indirectly from one or more of independent claim 1, 8 and 15, as amended and include all of the elements of one of independent claims 1, 8 and 15. As described above, independent claims 1, 8 and 15, as amended, are as not obvious, and are allowable, over Purcell and Kahn. Nothing in Takahashi cures the deficiencies of Purcell and Kahn in establishing prima facie obviousness of independent claims 1, 8 and 15. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 2-5, 9-12 and 16-19 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to dependent claims 2-5, 9-12 and 16-19.

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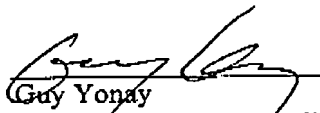
In the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Purcell, and Kahn in further view of US Patent No. 5,995,719 to Bourdead'hui et al ("Bourdead'hui"). Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 depend directly or indirectly from one or more of independent claim 1, 8 and 15, as amended and include all of the elements of one of independent claims 1, 8 and 15. As described above, independent claims 1, 8 and 15, as amended, are as not obvious, and are allowable, over Purcell and Kahn. Nothing in Bourdead'hui cures the deficiencies of Purcell and Kahn in establishing prima facie obviousness of independent claims 1, 8 and 15. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to dependent claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,


Guy Yonay
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 52,388

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Pearl Cohen Zedek Latzer, LLP
1500 Broadway, 12th Floor
New York, New York 10036
Tel: (646) 878-0800
Fax: (646) 878-0801